

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08700 201945Z

47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 INRE-00 INSE-00 TRSE-00

COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 SCA-01 VO-03 DRC-01 /139 W

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O 201904Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8890

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SGEN/PBOR/MX

SUBJ: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: MEXICAN CONSUL GENERAL'S ALLEGATIONS

REF: MEXICO 8699

1. AS STATED IN REFTTEL, AMBASSADOR PLANS TO RAISE WITH SECRETARY RABASA ON FRIDAY THE STATEMENTS PURPORTEDLY MADE BY CONSUL GENERAL FERNANDEZ FARINA CONCERNING THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT SITUATION. GIVEN THE GENERAL CONSISTENCY IN THE REPORTING OF THOSE REMARKS, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT FERNANDEZ INDEED MADE SOME OUTLANDISH CHARGES DURING THE COURSE OF HIS COLLECTIVE INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEXICO CITY MEDIA. SOME OF HIS COMMENTS, AS REPORTED, ARE NOW "OLD HAT" -- E.G. PLACING THE BLAME FOR THE "ILLEGAL" PROBLEM ON US EMPLOYERS AND CALLING FOR NEGOTIATION OF A NEW "BRACERO" AGREEMENT. THE NEW ELEMENTS RELATED TO HIS CHARGE OF VERY GENERAL PHYSICAL ABUSE OF MEXICAN "ILLEGALS" BY IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND BORDER PATROL PERSONNEL. LIKEWISE, HIS CONTENTION THAT US AUTHORITIES HAVE ANSWERED NONE OF THE COMPLAINTS REGISTERED BY THE MEXICAN CONSULATE GENERAL AT EL PASO NEEDS TO BE ANSWERED.

2. FOR SOME TIME, EMBASSY HAS FELT THAT THE GOM CAMPAIGN ON THIS ISSUE WAS BOTH ILL-CONCEIVED AND ILL-TIMED. HOWEVER, SO LONG AS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 08700 201945Z

THESE EFFORTS WERE CONFINED TO OFFICIAL, PRIVATE CHANNELS, THEY

COULD BE DEALT WITH IN A MANNER LEAST LIKELY TO RESULT IN A PUBLIC BROUHAHA WHICH MIGHT DAMAGE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS (ESSENTIALLY SINCE RESOLUTION OF THE SALINITY PROBLEM) IT HAS BECOME APPARENT THAT THE GOM HAS OPTED FOR A PUBLIC AIRING OF THIS ISSUE, EITHER IN AN ATTEMPT TO ELICIT MEXICAN PUBLIC SUPPORT OR INDIRECTLY TO PRESSURE THE USG INTO CONCESSION ON THIS MATTER (OR BOTH). EMBASSY BELIEVES STATEMENTS BY GOM OFFICIALS SUCH AS FERNANDEZ MUST BE CONTESTED; OTHERWISE WE APPEAR, THROUGH OUR SILENCE, TO AGREE WITH THE CHARGES AND ANALYSES PUT FORWARD BY THESE INDIVIDUALS.

3. WITH THE FOREGOING IN MIND, AMBASSADOR PROPOSES TO LEAVE WITH SECRETARY RABASA A NOTE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE

EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO DRAW YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION TO THE REMARKS OF THE MEXICAN CONSUL GENERAL AT EL PASO, LIC. FERNANDO FERNANDEZ FARINO, CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF MEXICANS WHO ILLEGALLY ENTER THE UNITED STATES. CONSUL GENERAL FERNANDEZ' REMARKS WERE REPORTED WIDELY IN THE NOVEMBER 18, 1973 MEXICO CITY PRESS.

IF QUOTED CORRECTLY, CONSUL GENERAL FERNANDEZ HAS STATED, INTER ALIA, THAT MEXICANS FOUND TO BE ILLEGALLY IN THE US AND SUBSEQUENTLY EXPELLED FROM THAT COUNTRY BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OR BORDER PATROL HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO GENERAL PHYSICAL ABUSE. FURTHERMORE, CONSUL GENERAL FERNANDEZ ALLEGEDLY STATED THAT US AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT REPLIED TO A SINGLE PROTEST IN REGARD TO SUCH MISTREATMENT AS PRESENTED BY THE MEXICAN CONSULATE GENERAL AT EL PASO.

I AM SURE THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL AGREE THAT THE REPORTED ALLEGATIONS ARE OF A MOST SERIOUS NATURE. MY GOVERNMENT CONSISTENTLY HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS CONCERN AND ITS READINESS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL ACTION OVER THOSE ISOLATED INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE COME TO ITS ATTENTION CONCERNING MISTREATMENT OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, LIKEWISE, MY GOVERNMENT REPEATEDLY HAS MADE KNOWN ITS DESIRE TO GRANT FULL AND FREE ACCESS BY MEXICAN CONSULAR PERSONNEL TO MEXICANS HELD AT DETENTION CENTERS PRIOR TO THEIR EXPULSION FROM THE U.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 08700 201945Z

PULSION FROM THE U.S.

ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE THE HONOR TO REQUEST THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT CONSUL GENERAL FERNANDEZ INDEED MADE THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. IF SO, I HAVE THE FURTHER HONOR TO REQUEST THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT PROVIDE THE DETAILED INFORMATION, SUBSTANTIATING THOSE CHARGES, WHICH WILL ENABLE US AUTHORITIES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION.

IN THE EVENT THAT CONSUL GENERAL FERNANDEZ DID NOT MAKE THE
REPORTED STATEMENTS, I REQUEST THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY'S GOVERNMENT
TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO CORRECT THE PUBLIC RECORD.

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

UNQUOTE

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE IN THIS APPROACH.
MCBRIDE

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NNN

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